

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Week ending December 15, 2011

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The staff presented the five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017 to the Town Council during a Work Study meeting on Tuesday, December 13, in the Council Chambers. The next discussion on capital projects will be during the special meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 where staff will be looking for direction on which projects the Council wishes to move forward.

The Town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 will be presented to the public and Town Council on Thursday, January 19, 2012 by the Town's auditing firm, Larson Allen LLP. The annual audit is a statutory requirement and is intended to provide the citizens with confidence that taxpayer funds are recorded and presented according to generally accepted accounting standards. The Town report includes an unqualified opinion on the financial statements with no findings. The report will be available on the Town's website.

The last Citizen's Town Hall was held on Wednesday evening, December 14, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; this was an opportunity for residents to talk to staff about any issues or questions that they may have and are not sure who their contact person is. Informational brochures on recreation programs, maps, voting information, etc. were made available, as well as light refreshments. There were two citizens who stopped by and had questions regarding the roads.

Paula Woodward, the Town Hall Customer Service Representative who has been the Town's friendly face on the second floor, has accepted a full-time position with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office effective January 3, 2012. Paula has served the Town well and will be assigned to the MCSO substation on the first floor of Town Hall where she will still serve the public in her professional manner.

On Wednesday, December 14, the Fountain Hills Fire Department took delivery of four new rescue tools. This equipment was purchased with a \$21,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. No Town funds were used in this acquisition. The new equipment consists of a spreader tool (AKA "Jaws of Life"), a cutter and two hydraulic rams, and two sets of hydraulic hoses. This new equipment will be deployed on Engine 823, located at Fire Station 2. It will be located there because of the frequency of higher speed vehicle accidents that occur on Shea Blvd. and areas of the Beeline Highway that are close to Town. Vehicle occupants are more likely to become trapped in a vehicle that is involved in a high speed accident. New car designs incorporate higher strength steel in their construction. Older rescue tools have difficulty cutting into these newer materials. This new equipment will greatly enhance our success with extricating victims in these newer vehicles.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Planning

The Town Council will be presented with an application for a Temporary Use Permit for the repeating event "Art in the Park" at their December 15 meeting.



Pisa Pizza has been issued a permit for an outdoor seating and dining area directly in front of the restaurant and the patio is currently under construction.

Dunkin Donuts has begun construction of their interior tenant improvements and the drive-thru. They are planning to be open for Christmas and the Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for December 26.

Staff continues to meet bi-weekly with the development team for the “Avenues” project which consists of a theatre and two stand-alone buildings located at the corner of Verde River Drive and Avenue of the Fountains.

Environmental

Staff attended a meeting of the Maricopa County’s eastern core group for the Community Wildfire Protection Program. The group consists of key personnel from east side municipal and county fire protection providers, as well as members from the Maricopa County Emergency Management Department (MCEMD). One of the main topics discussed was how each municipality utilized the grant money they received from the MCEMD. The Town used the grant money we received to remove non-native vegetation and trimmed up trees in two area washes. In doing so, we reduced hazardous fuels and reduce the danger of wildfires in those washes. We were told the MCEMD would have additional funds available for qualifying projects in the coming year.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement has opened 36 cases so far for the month of December. Staff assisted the Streets Department with various safety issues resulting from the recent adverse weather conditions. Several complaints were received on the condition of the roads and one citizen called to report possible damage to his vehicle. The weather also contributed to damage to some trees, which ended up partially blocking the right-of-way in two different areas.

CAD/GIS

The GIS/CAD Division responded to a number of requests from the public and other Town departments. Projects included 10 aerial site plans, poster prints for upcoming Town meetings, resolving four address correction street name problems assisting Maricopa County Assessor and County Elections, and providing Maricopa Association of Governments staff with updated Zoning Map data. Staff also continue to insert the ongoing accident report log into Intersection Magic.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Services/Senior Services

The Fountain Hills Art League held their annual Holiday party on Monday evening, December 12.

The Volunteer Coffee was held on Tuesday, December 13, and was well attended.

Fort McDowell held a two-day Domestic Violence training seminar on Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 -15 with attendees from Fort McDowell, Salt River, and Gila reservations on hand. The organizer of the event was impressed with our facilities and stated they look forward to using the ballroom again.

The trains, trees, wreaths, and gingerbread houses are on display until the end of the month.

The Activity Center currently has 18 Health & Wellness and five Arizona Centennial presentations lined up for spring and staff is working on confirming details for these presentations. Staff is also working on confirming sponsors for the Activity EXPO scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., as well as finalizing PR materials for the Activities Expo and the Arizona Centennial.

Home Delivered Meals — A total of 669 meals were delivered to 35 clients in the month of November. That number was down 30 meals from the previous month.

Pei Wei held its first fundraiser for Senior Services, Inc., on Wednesday, November 9, and raised about \$110 for the nonprofit. This is an ongoing fundraiser being held on the second Wednesday of every month until April where 20% of the proceeds that day are donated to the program. Starting in January, Señor Taco will also donate 10% of sales on the third Wednesday of every month to Senior Services, Inc. to help support the Home Delivered Meals program.

Parks

The Parks Division's new groundskeeper, Wes Loyet, will be starting on Monday, December 19. He will cover routine maintenance at Four Peaks Park and Desert Vista Park and also assist Park Leads at the other two parks.

Phil McKenzie remains on workman's compensation due to the injury to his shoulder and the ongoing rehab after the surgical procedure. He has reported to staff that the rehab is going well and will update us after the next meeting with his doctor.

Parks Division staff reported the latest rainfall total at 1.5 inches collected at our **Fountain Park** rain gauge. The rain has been very beneficial for leaching salt residue from the soil root zones, and cleansing walking paths and park amenities of unsightly bird droppings.

The rains have caused some flooding of **Golden Eagle Park** ball-fields resulting in cancellation of several games and practices this week. Staff is working hard to get the fields playable ASAP.

A liquid fertilizer will be applied to the Fountain Park turf this week and early next week. The mowing scheduled this week has been canceled and the irrigation clocks at all parks have been shut down due to the rainfall this week.

The Greening of Downtown Phase 4 tree project was started on Thursday morning, December 15. The contractor had two loads of fill dirt delivered to Fountain Park and rescheduled the delivery of 20 trees for Monday, December 19, due to the weather this week. The tree locations have been marked and the planting will start on Monday afternoon.

Recreation

Two Fountain Hills athletes will take part in the next round of the **Punt, Pass, and Kick** competition. Max Hadsall and McKenzie Straub will compete in the Punt, Pass, Kick state competition on December 18, taking place during the Arizona Cardinals game.

Don Clark and Anjelica Giardino met with the Fountain Hills Soccer Club President and the Director of Fields to discuss winter and spring reservations and field repairs.

Staff has been working on booking fields for Fountain Hills High School Tennis, Girls JV Softball, Boys JV Baseball, and Scottsdale Prep Soccer.

If the weather cooperates, Sunday will be the championship games for the **Coed Slow Pitch Softball League**. Christ Church of Fountain Hills is in the lead so far in the double elimination tournament. There were four teams participating over the last eight weeks at Golden Eagle Park on Sunday nights.

A monthly Recreation Assistant meeting was held to discuss youth basketball, cleanliness of restrooms, and the **2nd Annual Boys Soccer Invitational** which will be held at Desert Vista Park on Saturday, December 17.

Recreation staff continues to work on planning and promoting upcoming programs which begin next month.

Centennial Circle – The contractor responsible for planting the trees, providing irrigation, and installing decorative rock began work mid-week after the rain subsided. Work on the trees is to be completed this week. The final work, the spreading of the decorative rock in each of the areas, is to be completed as soon as the area is dry enough.

Fountain Park Lake Quality – A draft copy of an Operations and Maintenance Manual for Fountain Park lake has been delivered by the consultant, Dr. Rick Amalfi, of Aquatic Consulting and Testing. Both Town and Sanitary District committee members have reviewed the plan and will be providing comments back to Dr. Amalfi after meeting this week to discuss any changes or additions to the manual.

Public Art – At the request of the Cultural and Civic Association's Public Art Committee and the Library Association, the bronze sculpture entitled Shima II, which depicts a rabbit, will be moved by staff from storage in the Community Center to the lobby of the Library next Monday when it reopens. The Library Association will be running a contest to rename the piece and wanted it on display during the event. The final home of the newly renamed piece will be the Centennial Circle, and it will be one of seven pieces of art to eventually be displayed there.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Economic Development

Business Incubator (JumpStartBiz) – Staff is working with Arizona Business Advisors on the small business incubator proposal and funding request. The “virtual” incubator, JumpStartBiz, is expecting to open its doors in January with support from three local businesses and the Chamber; the incubator is requesting Town funding as well. The funding request will come before Council for discussion and direction at the December 15 meeting. Staff is meeting with the incubator advisory committee. Staff is also working with Arizona Business Advisors to understand the incubator goals and deliverables should the Council decide to move forward with the funding request. JumpStartBiz has been in conversation with three potential incubator members who are interested in the incubator program and services.

Business Attraction, Retail –

Project Colorful Buckets (Sherwin Williams) – The new store is located in Fountain View Plaza, 13525 N. Fountain Hills Blvd. (northeast corner of Fountain Hills Blvd. and Avenida Vida Buena; same plaza as Snap Fitness). Sherwin Williams' tenant improvements are continuing. The Town's Building Safety Division has been very responsive to inspection requests, allowing the project to keep pace with an anticipated year-end opening. The electrical inspection for “metering” the unit was done this week. This allowed the contractor to work with SRP to install and set the electrical meter. The new store manager is overseeing start-up preparations.

Project Submersible Pastries (Dunkin Donuts) – Tenant improvements for the Dunkin Donuts store located in Palisades Plaza (Safeway plaza) are continuing. The Building Safety Division is coordinating with the contractor for timely inspections. Dunkin Donuts is targeting to open the interior operation before the end of the year. The drive-thru construction likely will continue into January.

Senor Taco (second location) – Senor Taco has not yet “pulled” the building permit for their second location in Fountain View Plaza (northeast corner of Fountain Hills Blvd. and Avenida Vida Buena; same plaza as Snap Fitness and Sherwin Williams). The building permit was ready for issuance in September. According to conversations with Senor Taco, they are still working on contractor selection and other items internally which need to be completed prior to moving forward.

Business Attraction, Office – The outreach to our existing business base has begun. The Greater Phoenix Economic Council has begun contacting the targeted businesses in Fountain Hills, with 117 businesses are on the contact list. Two interns are making most of the calls, with one staff member overseeing and also providing outreach calls to specific businesses. Messages were left with numerous businesses that were not able to be reached on the first call. Follow-up calls will be made to “non-responders.” The calls appear to be on target for completion prior to the end of the year. The draft report with the resulting information is expected to be completed by the end of December. A report to the Council on the results is scheduled for the January 19, 2012 Council meeting.

[Town Clerk – as of 5:00 p.m. on December 14, 2011](#)

1. Following is a list of individuals who *have picked up* Recall Candidate Packets.

Reminder: Individuals become “official candidates” once their 1) nomination papers, 2) petitions, and 3) financial disclosure statements have been filed in the Clerk’s office, which cannot occur earlier than December 14 and no later than the filing deadline of 5:00 p.m. , January 13, 2012.

Recall Candidates:

Richard Rutkowski

2. Following is a list of individuals who have filed either a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement or Statement of Organization, which forms their Recall Candidate Political Committee. Political Committees’ Chairs and Treasurers have also been listed.

Reminder: Filing either of the two forms mentioned above (#2) allows them to: (i) circulate petitions, (ii) receive or expend money, and (iii) distribute campaign literature.

Recall Candidates:

RCPC 2011-01- **Henry Leger; Chair: Janet Leger, and Treasurer: Karl Gaardsmoe

RCPC 2011-02- **Richard Rutkowski; Chair: Bruce Hansen, and Treasurer: Robert Modic

**** Filed a Statement of Organization**

***** Filed a \$500 Threshold Exemption Statement**

3. Following is a list of Mayor and Council Candidates who have filed their nomination paper, nomination petitions, and financial disclosure statement by the 5 p.m. December 14th deadline. These candidates’ names were forwarded to Maricopa County Elections for placement on the March 13, 2012 ballot.

Mayor Candidates: **Date Filed**

Dwight Johnson 12/12/11

Linda Kavanagh 12/13/11

Council Candidates:

Dennis Brown 12/5/11

Dennis Contino 12/14/11

Nick DePorter 12/12/11

Cassie Hansen 12/12/11

Mary J. Nickum 12/6/11

Nancy Ordowski 12/13/11

Cecil Yates 12/14/11

4. Following is a list of Recall Council Candidates who have filed their nomination paper, nomination petitions, and financial disclosure statement by the 5 p.m. January 13, 2012 deadline.

Recall Candidates:

Henry Leger (incumbent – no filing necessary)

Finance

Licensing – New Business Licenses: 7

In Town:

Matthew V Kiviaho DBA Mr Fix It of Fountain Hills – 12050 North Panorama Dr #206

Out of Town:

Desel, Inc. DBA Foothills Pool Service and Repairs – Buckeye, AZ

Bobby Harr Studio – Sun City, AZ

Valley Fire and Water Restorations, Inc. – Gilbert, AZ

SME Solutions, LLC – Tacoma, WA

Cole Morris Wildlife Photography DBA Wildlife Photography – Mesa, AZ

Unique Accessories – Scottsdale, AZ